

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-2. (Canceled).

3. (Previously Presented) A delay time adjusting method comprising:

comparing the phases of an input first periodic signal and an output second periodic signal;

adjusting a delay time of the input first periodic signal so that a phase of the input first periodic signal and a phase of the output second periodic signal match within a predetermined tolerance, wherein

when a phase of a predetermined rising edge of said output second periodic signal is behind a phase of a predetermined rising edge of said input first periodic signal, said delay time is adjusted so that said predetermined rising edge of said output second periodic signal matches a rising edge of said input first periodic signal, a phase of the rising edge being behind and nearest to said phase of said predetermined rising edge of said output second periodic signal, and wherein the adjusting of said delay at an initial stage of the adjusting is to increase said delay when starting the step of adjusting of said delay.

4. (Previously Presented) A delay time adjusting method of adjusting a delay time of an input first periodic signal so that a phase of said input first periodic signal and a phase of an output second periodic signal match each other based on a comparison between phases of said input first periodic signal and said input second periodic signal, the method comprising:

a first step of judging whether a phase of a predetermined rising edge of said output second periodic signal is behind a phase of a first rising edge of said input first periodic signal; and

a second step of increasing the delay time to adjust said phase of said output second periodic signal so that, when said phase of said predetermined rising edge is judged to be behind said phase of said first rising edge in said first step, said phase of said predetermined rising edge and a phase of a second rising edge of said input first periodic signal match each other, the second rising edge being one period behind said first rising edge, wherein the step of delaying at an initial stage of adjustment is to increase the delay time when starting the delay time adjustment.

5. (Canceled).

6. (Previously Presented) A delay time adjusting circuit for adjusting a delay time of an input first periodic signal so that a phase of said input first periodic signal and a phase of an output second periodic signal match each other based on a comparison between phases of said input first periodic signal and said input second periodic signal, the circuit comprising:

a judging circuit for judging whether a phase of a predetermined rising edge of said output second periodic signal is behind a phase of a predetermined rising edge of said input first periodic signal; and

a delaying circuit for adjusting said delay time so that, when said phase of said predetermined rising edge of said output second periodic signal is judged to be behind said phase of said predetermined rising edge of said input first periodic signal by said judging circuit, said predetermined rising edge of said output second periodic signal

matches a rising edge of said input first periodic signal, a phase of the rising edge being behind and nearest to said phase of said predetermined rising edge of said output second periodic signal, wherein the step of delaying at an initial stage of adjustment is to increase the delay time when starting the delay time adjustment.

7. (Previously Presented) A delay time adjusting circuit for adjusting a delay time of an input first periodic signal so that a phase of said input first periodic signal and a phase of an output second periodic signal match each other based on a comparison between phases of said input first periodic signal and said input second periodic signal, the circuit comprising:

- a delaying circuit for delaying said input first periodic signal so as to generate said output second periodic signal;

- a phase-detecting circuit for detecting whether a phase of a predetermined rising edge of said output second periodic signal is behind a phase of a first rising edge of said input first periodic signal; and

- an adjusting circuit for controlling said delaying circuit so that, when said phase of said predetermined rising edge is judged to be behind said phase of said first rising edge by said phase-detecting circuit, said delaying circuit delays said phase of said output second periodic signal until said phase of said predetermined rising edge and a phase of a second rising edge of said input first periodic signal match each other, the second rising edge being one period behind said first rising edge, wherein the step of delaying at an initial stage of adjustment is to increase the delay time when starting the delay time adjustment.

8. (Previously Presented) The delay time adjusting circuit as claimed in claim 7, wherein said adjusting circuit controls said delaying circuit so that, after said phase of said predetermined rising edge and said phase of said second rising edge match each other, said phase of said predetermined rising edge and said phase of said second rising edge match each other all the time within a tolerable range.